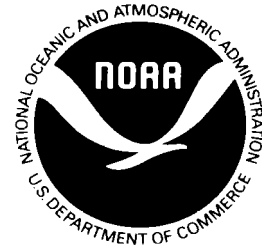


# Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulations



*This is a brief overview of requirements for fishing in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area. In order to fish in the area, vessels are required to obtain authorization from their country of registration.*

## **NAFO REGULATORY AREA**

The NAFO Convention Area is defined as the waters of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean north of 35°00'N latitude and west of the line extending due north from 35°00'N latitude and 42°00'W longitude to 59°00'N latitude, thence due west to 44°00'W longitude, and thence due north to the coast of Greenland, and the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Davis Strait and Baffin Bay south of 78°00'N latitude. The NAFO Regulatory Areas is that part of the Convention Area that lies beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (200 mile fishing zone) of coastal countries in the Northwest Atlantic ocean. Please refer to the chart on page 6.

## **NMFS REQUIREMENTS**

All operators of United States fishing vessels, must have in their possession a High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA) permit. The cost is \$50.00 United States dollars, and may take up to 30 days to process. In order to fish for regulated multispecies in international waters, HSFCA permit holders must also obtain a Letter of Authorization for exemption from the days at sea effort controls. Other HSFCA permit conditions will also apply. To receive a HSFCA permit application packet and to apply for a Letter of Authorization, please contact NMFS at (978) 281-9278.

## **NAFO REQUIREMENTS**

The following summarizes the information found in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1) and are applicable to United States vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area. To receive a complete copy of NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1 please contact NMFS at (978) 281-9278, or access the NMFS Northeast Regional Office or NAFO web sites (see page 5 for web site addresses).

### General Requirements:

- ▶ *Vessel logbook* - Vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area must maintain an up- to-date fishing logbook recording daily catch and estimated cumulative catch. If processing, cumulative production by species and product form must be recorded in a production logbook or product must be stowed in the hold in such a way that each species is separate. All logbook entries must be completed according to the instructions and using the codes found in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures. A detailed description of the NAFO requirements can be found in the NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1, pages 9-10. To receive a

vessel logbook, please contact NMFS at (978) 281-9278.

- ▶ *Documentation* - Specific NAFO regulations regarding vessel marking and documentation requirements can be found at NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1, page 16.
- ▶ *Hailing* - Vessel owners must provide notification to NAFO authorities at least six hours prior to the vessels entry or departure from the NAFO Regulatory Area. Vessel owners must also provide notification for each movement from one NAFO division to another prior to the move. Notification of transshipment must be provided 24 hours in advance. Specific regulations regarding NAFO hailing requirements can be found at NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1, page 18.
- ▶ *Inspections* - The master of a vessel must enable an inspection party to board, and facilitate boarding when notified. For specific NAFO requirements refer to NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1, pages 29-54.
- ▶ *Observers and Satellite Tracking* - Effective January 1, 2001, all vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area will be required to carry a NAFO-approved observer and a functioning vessel monitoring system. For information regarding observers and satellite tracking, please contact NMFS at (978) 281-9280. Specific NAFO regulations regarding observers and satellite tracking requirements can be found at NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1, page 76-77.
- ▶ *Gear and Marking* - Specific regulations regarding gear and marking requirements can be found at NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1, pages 14-16.
- ▶ *Minimum Fish Size* - Vessels may not retain on board undersized fish. Vessels which catch undersized fish in excess of 10% by number in any one haul, must immediately change its fishing area (minimum of 5 nautical miles). Undersized fish must be immediately returned to sea. Specific regulations regarding minimum fish sizes can be found at NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1, page 10.

NAFO Species: The following are the quota monitored species regulated by NAFO. Any U.S. vessel intending to harvest a species listed in the table below from the NAFO Regulatory Area may only do so if the United States is allocated quota or harvesting opportunities for that species. The United States directed and incidental catch quota allocations and restrictions for the United States are provided on page 3. ***If you intend to harvest a species not listed in the table below from the NAFO Regulatory Area, you must abide by other applicable NAFO measures, other international applicable law and United States regulations as specified for the species intended to be harvested.***

#### Quota Monitored Species Managed by NAFO

Common Name	Species Name
Cod	Gadus morhua

Redfish	Sebastes spp.
American Plaice	Hippoglossoides platessoides
Yellowtail Flounder	Limanda ferruginea
Witch Flounder	Pleuronectes ferruginea
Capelin	Mallotus villosus
Greenland Halibut	Reinhardtius hippoglossoides
Illex Squid	Illex illecebrosus
Shrimp	Penaeus, Pandalus spp.

**Incidental Catch Restriction:** Vessels must limit incidental catch to 5,500 pounds (2,500 kg) or 10%, whichever is greater, by weight, for each species of the total catch retained on board. If a ban on fishing is in effect or an "Others" quota (see page 4 for Others Quota) has been fully utilized, incidental catches of the species concerned may not exceed 2,750 pounds (1,250 kg) or 5%, whichever is greater. The table below summarizes the species the United States is eligible to harvest as an incidental catch species.

#### United States Incidental Catch Species

Common Name	Species Name
Cod	Gadus morhua
American Plaice	Hippoglossoides platessoides
Yellowtail Flounder	Limanda ferruginea
Witch Flounder	Pleuronectes ferruginea
Capelin	Mallotus villosus
Greenland Halibut	Reinhardtius hippoglossoides

**United States Quota:** Currently, the United States has been allocated quotas for three species in designated areas. The table below summarizes the United States quota and the gear restrictions associated with the respective fisheries.

#### Regulated NAFO Species Allocated To The United States as a Directed Fishery For Fishing Year 2000

Common Name	Species Name	Area (see chart)	Quota (mt)	Fishing Days	Minimum Fish Size	Minimum Mesh Size (mm) (in)	Grate Size Spacing (mm) (in)
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Redfish	<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	3M	69	N/A	None	130 5	N/A
<i>Illex</i> Squid	<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	3 & 4	453	N/A	None	60 2.25	N/A
Shrimp	<i>Penaeus</i> , <i>Pandalus spp.</i>	3L	67	N/A	None	40 1.50	22 1
Shrimp	<i>Penaeus</i> , <i>Pandalus spp.</i>	3M	*	100	None	40 1.50	22 1

\* The United States may allow one vessel to fish for shrimp for no more than 100 fishing days in Area 3M.

- **Bycatch for a Vessel Fishing for Shrimp** - Vessels fishing for shrimp which catch NAFO regulated groundfish species (redfish, Atlantic cod, American plaice, yellowtail flounder, Greenland halibut, and witch flounder) in excess of 5% by weight in any one haul, must immediately change fishing area (minimum of 5 nautical miles).

**Others Catch Quota:** In addition, vessels from countries to which no quota has been allocated may fish for the stocks listed below as long as the total Others Catch Quota is not exceeded. Be advised, that the Others Catch Quota is not exclusively for the United States. Any NAFO Contracting Country to which no quota has been allocated for a given species may gain access to the Others Catch Quota for that species by notifying the NAFO Executive Secretary. The table below summarizes the Others Catch quota available to U.S. fishing vessels and the gear restrictions associated with the respective fisheries.

**Regulated NAFO Species Available for Harvest by the United States  
as an Others Catch Quota for Fishing Year 2000**

Common Name	Species Name	Area (see chart)	Others Quota (mt)	Minimum Fish Size (cm) (in)	Minimum Mesh Size (mm) (in)
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	3LNO	50	25 10 (total length)	130 5
Greenland Halibut	<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	3LMNO	1,725	30 12 (total length)	130 5

- A vessel harvesting species from the Others Catch Quota must notify the NAFO Executive Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the vessel engaging in a fishery for an amount allocated to the "Others" for that stock, with an estimate of the projected catch.
- Vessel are required to report their catches from that stock at 48-hour intervals.

For More Information Contact:

**National Marine Fisheries Service  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930**

*Tel: (978) 281-9278*

*Fax: (978) 281-9135*

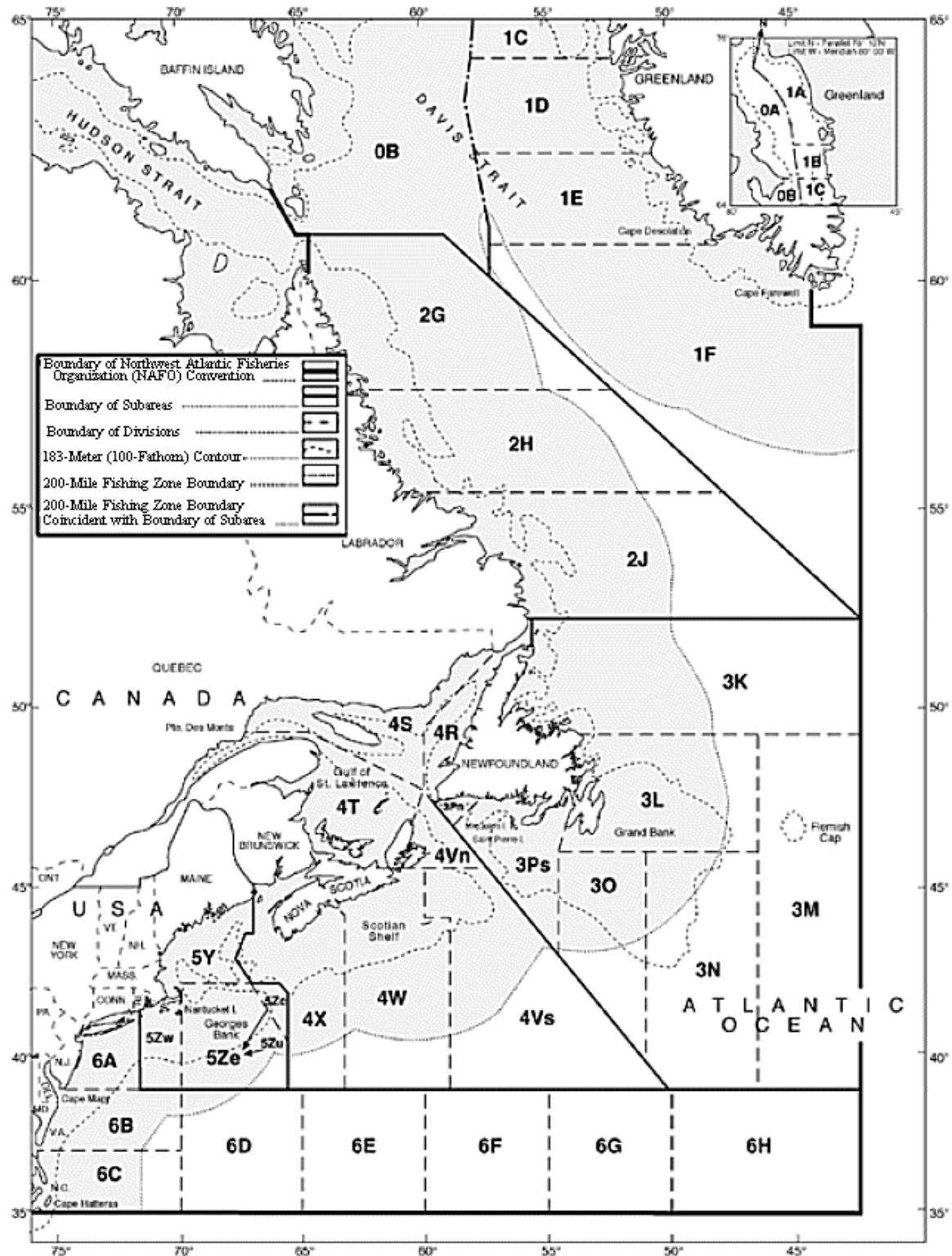
*Web Site: <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/doc/nero.html>*

**NAFO Headquarters  
2 Morris Drive  
Dartmouth, N.S. Canada**

*Tel: (902) 468-5590*

*Fax: (902) 468-5538*

*Web Site: <http://www.nafo.ca>*



This is a simplified summary of the measures in effect under the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures. This summary has no legal standing. You should request a copy of the official rules as published in NAFO/FC Doc. 00/1.